Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 129449

EXDIS, LIMA FOR TODMAN FROM DEVINE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN), PGOV, BR, US

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S BRAZIL VISIT: FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND FOR THE BRASILIA VISIT, THERE FOLLOWS AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION EXTENDED TO GEISEL IN 1975, REPEATED IN 1976 -- AND RATHER DISCOURTEOUSLY SPURNED:
- A) IN A JUNE 1975 LETTER, PRESIDENT FORD INVITED PRESIDENT GEISEL TO VISIT THE U.S. THAT YEAR. GEISEL WROTE BACK HIS THANKS, BUT EXPLAINED THAT HIS SCHEDULE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE IN 1975. HE SUGGESTED NO ALTERNATIVE DATES, BUT INDICATED HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH SOMETIME ("OPORTUNAMENTE").
- B) IN FEBRUARY 1976, SECRETARY KISSINGER, DURING HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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BRASILIA VISIT, REAFFIRMED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION, SUGGESTING SEPTEMBER. GEISEL TOLD HIM "SPEAKING FRANKLY" THAT IT SEEMED INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO VISIT THE U.S. WHEN THERE WERE SUCH SERIOUS OUTSTANDING TRADE PROBLEMS (U.S. RESTRAINTS ON ENTRY OF SOME BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS).

C) SOME OF THE SPECIFIC TRADE IRRITANTS WERE RESOLVED IN

MAY 1976 AND, IN JULY -- AMIDST REPORTS OF A SEPTEMBER GEISEL TRIP TO JAPAN -- WE INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS TO MAKE A LOW KEY INQUIRY TO SILVEIRA RE THE U.S.

INVITATION. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONSE WAS THAT SOME AREAS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE REMAINED "UNDEFINED" AND THE GOB WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE US A DEFINITE INDICATION UNTIL MID-AUGUST. (FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IMPLIED THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND IF WE WERE TO CONSIDER THIS TOO LATE, LEAVING THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THEY WERE TRYING TO MANEUVER US INTO TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO CALL THE VISIT OFF.)

D) THE BRAZILIANS, IN FACT, NEVER GAVE US A RESPONSE. INSTEAD, THEY ENGAGED US HEAVILY IN ENSURING APPROPRIATE STOPOVER ARRANGEMENTS IN LOS ANGELES AND HONOLULU AS GEISEL PROCEEDED WITH HIS SEPTEMBER TRIP TO JAPAN.

2. ALL TOLD, A PRETTY POOR SHOW. CHRISTOPHER

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TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, BR, US, (CARTER, ROSALYNN), (GEISEL, ERNESTO)

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